

HOUSE BILL 891

By Dunlap

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, Part 30, relative to excused absences.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 30, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) A school principal or the principal's designee may excuse a student from school attendance to participate in a non-school-sponsored extracurricular activity, if the following conditions are met:

(1) The student provides documentation to the school as proof of the student's participation in the non-school-sponsored extracurricular activity; and

(2) The student's parent, custodian, or other person with legal custody or control of the student, prior to the extracurricular activity, submits to the principal or the principal's designee a written request for the excused absence. The written request shall be submitted no later than seven (7) business days prior to the student's absence. The written request shall include:

(A) The student's full name and personal identification number;

(B) The student's grade;

(C) The dates of the student's absence;

(D) The reason for the student's absence; and

(E) The signature of both the student and the student's parent, custodian, or other person with legal custody or control of the student.

(b) The principal or the principal's designee shall approve, in writing, the student's participation in the non-school-sponsored extracurricular activity.

(c) The principal may limit the number and duration of non-school-sponsored extracurricular activities for which excused absences may be granted to a student during the school year.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), the principal shall excuse no more than ten (10) absences each school year for students participating in non-school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.